present to introduce a direct ordinary train between Madras and Mysore due to operational and resource constraints besides lack of traffic justification.

(d) Does not arise.

Modernization of Railway Stations

4114. SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the total estimated layout for the expansion/modernization of the Railway Stations in Hubli and Bangalore and the total expenditure incurred thereon upto 30th March, 1996;

(b) the estimated amount likely to be spent for the purpose during the year 1996-97; and

(c) the details of the proposed expansion and modernization of the Railway Stations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c) Expansion/modernization of railway stations is a continuous process and is undertaken, as and when so warranted, by the increase in the volume of passenger traffic subject to the availability of funds and relative priorities.

Hubli and Bangalore stations have already been provided with the facilities commensurate with the volume of passenger traffic handled at these stations.

At Bangalore City railway station, a work of provision of escalators for subway on platform no. 1, 5 and 6 is in progress. The expenditure on this work upto March, 1996 was Rs. 50 lakh and the outlay for 1996-97 is Rs. 106 lakh.

At Hubli, no work is proposed to be undertaken at present.

[Translation]

Theft by Smack Drug-Addicts

4115. SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is an increase in the incidents of theft by the smack drug-addicts in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to prevent such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDERJIT GUPTA) : (a) and (b) According to the Delhi Police, 101 cases of theft by the drug addicts were reported in Delhi during the current year (upto 31.7.1996) as against 74 such cases during the corresponding period of last year.

(c) The steps taken by the Delhi Police to prevent such incidents include, inter-alia, strict surveillance at the airport, ISBTs and railway stations, strict vigil in other vulnerable areas, a close watch over suspected drug traffickers/peddlers in various colonies, patrolling, laying of traps, introduction of Neighbourhood Watch Scheme, etc.

Prawn Culture

4116. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the places where prawn culture has been started in Orissa by the Central Government, State Government and the private parties;

(b) whether external assistance has been availed by the Government as well as the private parties to promote prawn culture in the States; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) Prawn culture activities have been undertaken by private entrepreneurs in potential brackishwater areas available all along the Orissa Coast. No commercial prawn culture is undertaken by the Central or State Governments.

(b) and (c) A World Bank assisted Shrimp and Fish Culture Project is being implemented in five States including Orissa from May, 1992. 90% of the project cost has been provided as soft loan by the World Bank. A net brackishwater area of 871 hectares has been included under this project at Jagatjore-Banapada, Bideipur and Narendrapur sites along with support services at an estimated cost of Rs. 62.41 crores. The support services for which assistance is given to private entrepreneurs include shrimp hatcheries, feed mills, IQF Plants, etc.

Subsidy to the Farmers

4117. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the subsidy being extended to the farmers in the country as compared to the farmers in USA and other developed countries;

(b) whether subsidy extended to our farmers has declined gradually;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken for providing subsidy at par with the other developed countries?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) The estimates of producer subsidy equivalent (net of input subsidies and out